announcement, he had not much to say. He, however, requested that the number of non-official elected members might be so increased that they might form a majority as compared with the number of the official and nominated members put together, both in the Council and in the Budget Committee.

29. Reform of the Travancore Legislative Council.

Mr. R. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) expressed the thanks of the people of Kalkulam to the Government for the outline of the future policy contained in the Dewan's opening Address and for the promise of the contemplated extension of the people's rights and privileges. Having regard to the announcement in the opening Address about the proposed expansion of the Legislative Council, the Member represented that he had very little to say on the subject, but submitted that the non-official majority in the Council could be a substantial improvement only if all of them were elected by the people. To say that this would make Government powerless was, in the opinion of the Member, a fiction. It would, he said, show that the people were being taken into the confidence of Government, and thereby the administration could not be weakened but only strengthened considerably. The Member also said that there was a further safeguard in the existing Regulation, *viz.*, Section 13, which expressly reserved the independent prerogative of the Sovereign to make laws. This prerogative, the Member added, had not been renounced by the creation of the Legislative Council and Section 13 of the present Regulation was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Kesava Pillai Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) observed that the reforms introduced by the Legislative Council Regulation, I of 1095, were neither substantial nor adequate to the needs of the times and expressed his feelings of gratification and thankfulness to the Government for the announcement that the Legislative Council would be granted the privilege of a non-official majority and the right to put supplementary questions and move resolutions on matters of public interest. He said that the proposed reforms should be substantial and such as to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the people. The Cochin Legislative Council which was recently inaugurated for the first time had a decisive non-official majority and, in the Member's opinion, there could be no valid objection on the part of the Government to raise the Travancore Legislative Council to the level of that in Cochin. The Member pointed out that a non-official majority to be at all effective should be sufficiently large and decisive, and that, if a non-official majority was provided only by continuing the elected and nominated members, the change might not serve any effective purpose. The Cochin Council served as a model. The number of members need not be raised to any unweildy extent because it was not the number but the ratio that was important. The non-official element should not go below two-thirds of the sanctioned number, nor should the nominated members exceed one-sixth of the total non-official element. The Member also suggested that resolutions on matters of public interest when passed in the Council should be binding on the Government unless vetoed by His Highness the Maha Raja. The right to divide the Council on the Budget should also be conferred. The Member further submitted that the existing restriction in regard to the number of interpellations might be removed.

Mr. Vikraman Velayudhan Unnithan (Member, Quilon Taluk) observed that the reponsibility of a responsible Government should be in regard to the laws concerning revenue. The Government should have no power either to increase or otherwise alter the taxes or to expend the same without consulting the Council. The Member thanked the Government and His Highness the Maha Raja, on behalf of the public, for the announcement in the opening Address that the Council Regulation would be amended by making provision for a non-official majority, for the asking of supplementary questions and for moving resolutions. But the Member submitted that the people would not be satisfied with these changes. He suggested that there should be an elected non-official majority, because it was not to be expected that the nominated non-official members would vote against Government. The Member represented that the request of the people was that responsible Government

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should be brought into existence, as such a Government would not act against public interests. The reply "no" given to an interpellation at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council whether there had not arisen the necessity for an Executive Council was rather surprising. The Member then drew the attention of Government to the collapse of the Thondara bridge, the undesirable condition of the engines, &c., of the Trivandrum-Quilon Railway, the crack in the Law College building, the recent destruction of temples by fire and the like, and said that all these would not have been possible if there had been responsible Government. Further, the Member said that the experience and knowledge of the people would be of great help to the Dewan who generally came from outside, and submitted that the people had discharged satisfactorily the various duties entrusted to them, such as those of members of Municipal Councils and Judges of Village Panchayat Courts. The principle of responsible Government having been accepted in British India, the Member suggested the desirability of introducing responsible Government in the State in view to the well-being of the people who, in the matter of educational advancement, were in the forefront as compared with other parts of India.

Mr. G. Govindan Nair B. A. & B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Quilon) said that the Travancore Legislative Council which was created 33 years ago was reformed ten years later, and that, owing to the great changes since brought about in the people's outlook by the spread of democratic ideas, the demand for responsible Government had become universal and irresistible. The people were dissatisfied with Regulation I of 1095, as also with the manner of its promulgation, and represented that there was much force in the opinion that an efficient Committee with a non-official majority should be empowered to draw up the constitution afresh. The Member made the following suggestions for the consideration of such a Committee:—

(1) The franchise and functions, the composition and rules of the Legislative Council, should be determined only by Regulations made on the advice of a mixed Committee with a majority of elected members.

(2) A wider franchise should be allowed. Every one who pays an annual tax of Rs. 10, every one with an annual income of Rs. 500, and every graduate should have a vote.

(3) The Council should have a substantial elected majority.

(4) The Council should be empowered to move resolutions and to divide the Council on them. Resolutions on the Budget ought to be binding on Government.

(5) The strength of the Council should be 50. One-half of this number should be returned from the five Divisions of the State. Two-thirds of the Council should be elected and not more than one-fourth should be officials.

(6) As the first step in the realisation of responsible Government there should be at least two Ministers with portfolios, elected by and answerable to the Council.

Dewan's reply.—I have heard with very great interest the speeches made by the Members. You will agree with me in saying that it will not be possible for me now to say anything more than what I have said in the opening speech.

30. Legislation in Travancore.

Mr. Ayappan Krishnan (Member, Kartikapalli Taluk) said that legislation in this country was carried on in two ways, *viz.*, by Regulations passed through the Council and by Rules framed by the Dewan. The Member represented that public opinion was not, as a rule, taken before the introduction of laws and rules and that consequently the public suffered much hardship. To remedy the existing evils, the Member made the following suggestions :—

(1) The present Legislative Council Regulation should be modified by making provision for a non-official majority and enacting that no Regulation should be passed without the support of the non-officials.

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